

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 26, 2001. Accordingly, accompanying the Amendment is a petition to extend the time for response by two months together with the required fee. In addition, accompanying the Amendment is a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR §1.114.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement in light of the following remarks:

The Office Action states: "MPEP 806.05(e) pertains to claims directed to process and apparatus." However, both MPEP 806.05(f) and MPEP 806.05(h) also pertain to claims directed to process and apparatus.

More particularly, MPEP 806.05(f) pertains to an apparatus and a process of making, and MPEP 806.05(h) pertains to an apparatus and a process of using. Since MPEP 806.05(e), 806.05(f) and 806.05(h) all pertain to a process and apparatus, the question is "which one pertains to the process and apparatus claimed?" Applicant has shown that MPEP 806.05(e) does not pertain to the process and apparatus claimed while MPEP 806.05(f) does.

To reiterate that point, MPEP 806.05(e) applies to claims directed to a process and apparatus used to *practice* that process. Examples of an apparatus for practicing (or performing) a claimed process of coating are applying devices such as sprayers or immersion tanks. The container that is being coated is not capable of being used as an instrument for coating itself, so 806.05(e) does not apply.

Rather, the container of claim 1 *results* from practicing the method of claim 10. That is, the

container of claim 1 is produced, manufactured, or “made” by the method of claim 10, so 806.05(f) applies as Applicant has asserted.

Applicant has also shown why the application cannot be restricted with respect to claim 2, and the Examiner has not responded to this showing. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

“Consists Essentially Of”

The phrase “consists essentially of” has a meaning that is defined in MPEP 2111.03. Applicant has asserted that this meaning limits the scope of the claimed coating so that it cannot include ingredients, other than titanium dioxide, that would materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention. However, the Examiner has not agreed that the phrase “consists essentially of” limits the scope of the claimed coating as provided in MPEP 2111.03, and on that basis Applicant has amended the claims to include specific language consistent with the intended meaning of “consists essentially of” in the context of the present invention.

The claims now explicitly exclude, for example, coatings wherein the titanium dioxide molecules are substantially contained in or mixed into an epoxy resin, such as in Goto, and are thereby prevented from interacting with atmospheric water vapor. New dependent claims 19 - 25 have been added to further explicate particular aspects of the claimed coating.

//

//

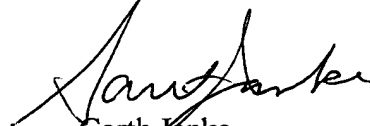
//

//

//

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 - 25 should issue in a single patent and are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the restriction requirement and the rejections and pass the entire case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garth Janke', written over the printed name.

Garth Janke
Reg. No. 40,662
(503) 228-1841

X:\DATA\WP51\YAMASHITA\MEND5.006

In the Claims:

Please enter claims 1, 10 and 15 amended as shown below in marked-up form:

--1 (twice amended). A method for reducing particle contamination inside a plastic container, comprising coating selected portions of the container with a coating consisting essentially of titanium dioxide such that the titanium dioxide is not substantially prevented from attracting atmospheric water molecules for loosening particle contamination, for facilitating cleaning the container to prevent contamination of the article when the article is stored in the container.

10 (twice amended). An apparatus for reducing particle contamination of an article, comprising a plastic container adapted for holding the article, and a coating on selected portions of said container, said coating consisting essentially of titanium dioxide such that the titanium dioxide is not substantially prevented from attracting atmospheric water molecules for loosening particle contamination, for facilitating cleaning the container to prevent contamination of the article when the article is stored in the container.

15 (twice amended). A method for storing semiconductor wafers, comprising providing a plastic container, providing a coating on said container [including] consisting essentially of titanium dioxide such that the titanium dioxide is not substantially prevented from attracting atmospheric water molecules for loosening particle contamination in said container, and using said container to hold the semiconductor wafers.--

intended use. = article/wafer

New claims 19 - 25 have been added as follows:

--19. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising at least one semiconductor wafer disposed in the container.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said coating so that said coating includes substantially no additional active ingredients.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising providing said coating in the form of a gel.

22. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said coating includes substantially no additional active ingredients.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said coating comprises a gel.

24. The method of claim 15, further comprising providing said coating so that said coating includes substantially no additional active ingredients.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising providing said coating in the form of a gel.--